

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 02913 031634Z

61

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 L-02 EB-07 DLOS-03 COA-01 FEA-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-10 INT-05 COME-00 /052 W

----- 127080

R 031134Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7248

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 2913

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, IN, BG

SUBJECT: MARITIME BOUNDARY - NATOMAS/CARLSBERT CONTRACT

REF: A. STATE 41538 B. DACCA 909 C. DACCA 1028

1. ALTHOUGH THE CONTRACT AREAS OF NATOMAS IN INDIA AND ASHLAND IN BANGLADESH DO NOT APPEAR TO OVERLAP, ACCORDING TO GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES PROVIDED BY MR. A. MACKAY, NATOMAS REPRESENTATIVE, AND COORDINATES PROVIDED IN REF. C, PART OF THE EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE NATOMAS CONTRACT AREA FOLLOWS GOI'S ORIGINAL APPROXIMATE MEDIAN LINE AND THE CONTRACT AREAS MEET AT ONE POINT, I.E., 21 DEGREES 00 MINUTES BY 89 DEGREES 15 MINUTES. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE NATOMAS/CARLSBERG CONTRACT, THE LINE CONNECTING POINTS 5 AND 6 (SEE BELOW) REPRESENTS THE GOI'S ORIGINAL APPROXIMATE MEDIAN LINE BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH. THE FOLLOWING ARE GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES IN DEGREES AND MINUTES FOR THE NATOMAS CONTRACT AREA:

POINT NO. 1: 2045 X 8659

POINT NO. 2: 2000 X 8720

POINT NO. 3: 2000 X 8820

POINT NO. 4: 2040 X 8900

POINT NO. 5: 2100 X 8915

POINT NO. 6: 2130 X 8910

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 02913 031634Z

POINT NO. 7: 2130 X 8900

POINT NO. 8: 2130 X 8800

POINT NO. 9: 2145 X 8750

2. AN EARLY MARITIME BOUNDARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH APPEARS TO BE EVEN MORE EXPEDIENT IN VIEW OF THE PROGRESS BEING MADE BY NATOMAS. MR. MACKAY SAID THE PRELIMINARY SEISMIC SURVEY WORK IN THEIR CONTRACT AREA WAS COMPLETED LAST NOVEMBER. THIS WORK INCLUDED SEISMIC SHOTS ALONG 2500 LINE MILES ON A 6X4 MILE GRID EXCLUSIVE OF APPROXIMATELY 10 MILES INSIDE THE CONTRACT AREA'S EASTERN BOUNDARY NEAR THE APPROXIMATE MEDIAN LINE. THE PRELIMINARY SEISMIC DATA REVEALED A POSSIBLE OIL BEARING STRUCTURE AND DETAILED SURVEYS IN THIS AREA HAVE EITHER STARTED OR ARE ABOUT TO COMMENCE. THE SEISMIC SURVEY SHIP LEFT RANGOON FEBRUARY 21-22 AND SHOULD BE ON LOCATION TO CONDUCT THE DETAILED SURVEY AT THIS TIME. MR. MACKAY SAID THE POSSIBLE OIL BEARING STRUCTURE DOES NOT APPEAR TO LIE WITHIN OR NEAR THE EASTERN BORDER OF THE CONTRACT AREA. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PARAGRAPH PROVIDED ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS. PLEASE PROTECT.

3. ONE INTERESTING INSERTION IN THE NATOMAS/CARLSBERG CONTRACT IS NOTED QUOTE: IF THE PETROLEUM OPERATIONS UNDER THIS CONTRACT INDICATE THE EXISTENCE OR THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE EXISTENCE OF ANY GEOLOGICAL PETROLEUM OR NATURAL GAS STRUCTURE/FIELD, WHICH EXTENDS OR MAY EXTEND ACROSS THE APPROXIMATE MEDIAN LINE BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH, FURTHER PETROLEUM OPERATION INsofar AS THIS STRUCTURE OR FIELD IS CONCERNED SHALL NOT PROCEED WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE GOI. UNQUOTE.

COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE ENCOURAGING REPORTS OF THE DISCOVERY OF A POSSIBLE OIL BEARING STRUCTURE BY THE NATOMAS/CARLSBERG GROUP, IT SEEMS THE INDIANS WILL BE LESS INCLINED TO CONCEDE MUCH OF THEIR TERRITORY AND MAY VERY WELL TAKE A MUCH HARDER LINE TOWARD A COMPROMISE SOLUTION IN THE THIRD ROUND OF TALKS, WHICH ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS ARE NOW UNDERWAY IN DELHI WITH THE BANGLADESH SIX-MAN DELEGATIONS HEADED BY FOREIGN SECRETARY AHMED.

SAXBE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOUNDARY DETERMINATION, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, OFFSHORE DRILLING, PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE02913
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750074-0435
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750388/aaaadbyh.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 41538, 75 DACCA 909, 75 DACCA 1028
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARITIME BOUNDARY - NATOMAS/CARLSBERT CONTRACT
TAGS: PBOR, IN, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006